

are forced to raise prices to protect their bottom-line. Lawsuit abuse, therefore, results in higher prices, increased medical expenses and loss of business growth.

Through public outreach programs, MDCALA increases awareness of frivolous litigation and the need for personal responsibility throughout the State. In particular, the MDCALA sponsored an essay contest for high school seniors earlier this year. In a terrific example of the concern of our next generation of voters, students from throughout Maryland took the time to craft thoughtful, well-written essays on the importance of personal responsibility in their daily lives.

As a former member of the Maryland General Assembly, I worked hard to reform our legal system at the State level. During my tenure in Congress, I have supported efforts with respect to product liability reform, securities litigation reform, and reform of the Federal Superfund program. More importantly, I sponsored legislation that has helped reduce, in my view, frivolous class action lawsuits brought against mortgage brokers.

Legal reform is a very complex issue. The legal system must function to provide justice to every American. This does not mean, however, that the status quo is necessarily perfect. When lawsuits and the courts are used in excess or to the detriment of innocent parties, the system should be reviewed and reformed if possible.

For their efforts, let me acknowledge MDCALA Chairman, The Honorable Phillip D. Bissett; Board of Directors—Joseph Brown, Jack Doll, Janna Naylor, Vikki Nelson, Gary Prince, The Honorable Joseph Sachs, Dr. Michael Saylor, and The Honorable Michael Wagner; and Executive Director Nancy H. Hill.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I remind our citizens that frivolous lawsuits—nationwide—clog our courts and prevent access to legitimate litigation. We must work together to implement common sense reform in order to restore fairness and justice to our legal system. I commend these citizens, and all involved in this worthwhile effort, for their dedication and commitment and to acknowledge this week as a time of public awareness on the serious issues associated with lawsuit abuse.

AUTHORIZING USE OF UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES AGAINST THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR RECENT ATTACKS AGAINST THE UNITED STATES

SPEECH OF

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 14, 2001

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, as you know, I traditionally do not support the use of military force to pursue our national objectives. In the past, I felt that we often resorted to military force too early, resorting to military reprisals before we explored all of our diplomatic options or fully questioned our motivations for such action. But today we are facing a different situation altogether.

I will support this resolution. The attacks on America only three days ago, without a doubt, were an act of war and unmitigated aggression against our country. I will not spend an-

other day of my life without remembering the nightmare of that day. And I, like every other American, know that such assaults on our freedom cannot go unanswered. We have no other option but to respond.

Still, I hope that the president will fully realize the awesome power he has been given and that he uses its full strength only after all other options to protecting our freedoms and bringing our attackers to their knees have been exhausted. The president must use this power prudently and with the understanding that many of us who vote today to approve this power do so with a heavy heart.

Nonetheless, we have no other option. I never thought I would find myself in this situation, where I would agree with many of my more eager peers, that force would be a legitimate option. But I, like my colleagues, know that we have no other choice. Faceless aggressors have challenged our society's core principles and I am confident that the ideals of our great land will prevail.

We will complete our objective and will not yield until we find and mete out justice to those nations, organizations or persons behind those horrific attacks. Yet I remain confident that we will not fall to the level of the terrorist. I know that the president will use our military force to make the world safer for free peoples and be careful not to wantonly crush innocent souls purely to make a point. Our motivations are right, our goals are just and I know that we will use our awesome military power to make the world better for all of us who embrace freedom in our hearts.

AUTHORIZING USE OF UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES AGAINST THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR RECENT ATTACKS AGAINST THE UNITED STATES

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 14, 2001

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.J. Res. 64/S.J. Res. 23, the use-of-military force resolution. By passing this resolution, the House of Representatives will send a clear message to our country's enemies—the United States is resolute. We stand with the President. We are united in defending our freedom and our liberty.

I spent the last two days in New York, offering assistance and comfort to my constituents in this time of great tragedy. Earlier this afternoon, I toured lower Manhattan with the President and other members of the New York, New Jersey and Connecticut delegations.

Over these last few days I have not been able to truly describe the landscape of destruction. When I walk among the rubble I am speechless. I have often thought that perhaps I should call upon religious scholars or poets to try to put these visions into words—I do not think I am up to the task. It is an indescribable place.

Walking through New York City I can tell you that the pain is very deep and very real but so is the resolve to rebuild and to not give into terror.

I have never been so moved by the actions of everyday people.

I have held the relatives of the missing as they sob for their loved ones while they proclaim in the same breath that they have never been so proud of New York City and America.

I have witnessed ashen-faced firefighters, as they move uptown after working at ground zero, applauded and embraced by total strangers as if returning from battle.

New Yorkers want a response to the madness of September 11th. Passage of the resolution will solidify this country's ability to take military action.

Congress stands with the President. And when the perpetrators have been identified, this resolution says that we will support President Bush when he takes action against the cowards who attacked our beloved country.

A day after Pearl Harbor was attacked, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, a great President and a great New Yorker said: "I believe I interpret the will of the Congress and of the people when I assert that we will not only defend ourselves to the uttermost, but will make very certain that this form of treachery shall never endanger us again."

International terrorism should never endanger us again! I urge all my colleagues to vote in favor of this resolution.

SIKHS CONDEMN ATTACK ON UNITED STATES

HON. CYNTHIA A. MCKINNEY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2001

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, the Council of Khalistan has written a letter to President Bush condemning Tuesday's brutal terrorist attack on the United States. This terrible attack is an act of war against all Americans and the freedom-loving people of all the world. The Council has also issued an excellent press release on the matter.

In the letter, the Council's President, Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, writes, "On behalf of the 21-million strong Sikh Nation and especially on behalf of more than 500,000 Sikh Americans, I would like to express our sadness and our sympathies to the people of the United States for the terrible attack on the United States yesterday and for the loss of life it entails."

Mr. Speaker, I would like to place this letter to President Bush and the Council of Khalistan's press release on the bombing into the RECORD.

COUNCIL OF KHALISTAN,

GURU GOBIND SINGH JI, TENTH MASTER,

Washington, DC, September 12, 2001.

Hon. GEORGE W. BUSH,

President of the United States,

The White House,

Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT, On behalf of the 21-million strong Sikh Nation and especially on behalf of more than 500,000 Sikh Americans, I would like to express our sadness and our sympathies to the people of the United States for the terrible attack on the United States yesterday and for the loss of life it entails. This is a terrible tragedy and we know that you will take appropriate action. Like all Americans and all decent people everywhere, we condemn this brutal senseless attack.

The Sikh religion recognizes all humanity as our brothers and we pray for the well-